

and severe, Lon and Brenda were becoming overwhelmed. At their wit's end, they received what appeared to be a sign from God, a call from a woman named Mary. This woman, whom the Solomon's had never met, organized caregivers for Jill in order to allow Lon and Brenda time to rest and renew themselves. They were able to catch up on sleep, spend quality time with their other children, and improve the quality of care Jill received. From this respite grew the idea for Jill's House, a special residential facility where parents of children with special needs can bring their children to stay in a safe and secure environment with professional care.

Jill's House currently serves over 500 families raising children with disabilities. Their facility offers a range of activities for the children including having an on-site moon bounce, a handicapped accessible playground, and a handicapped accessible pool. I have been privileged to work with Jill's House since they opened in 2010 and they have enriched our community and given peace of mind to many parents. This year marks the 5th year Jill's House has been open to help those who need it and I hope there will be many more anniversaries celebrating this blessed place.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay on January 12, 2015, I was unable to attend House Roll Call Vote numbers 17, 18 and 19. If present, I would have voted yes on H.R. 203, H.R. 33 and the Journal.

#### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRIA FUND FOR FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

#### HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today is the 10th anniversary of the Bria Fund for Feline Infectious Peritonitis. The Bria Fund is a worthy organization created on November 18, 2005, by two of my constituents, Susan Gingrich and James Shurskis, who worked together with the Winn Feline Foundation.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a disease that is considered to be the predominant cause of death for young cats under the age of two, but it can affect cats of any age, including senior cats. FIP remains a terminal disease, with no effective vaccine to prevent it, or treatment to cure it.

Despite these ongoing obstacles, the work of the Bria Fund has resulted in new interest and research into the little known disease of FIP. Since 2005, the Fund has supported 16 FIP research projects, leading to important knowledge in multiple aspects of FIP. The information gained about the FIP virus has led to improvements in testing, diagnosis, and treatment, and better understanding of caring for cats with FIP.

This is an exciting time for FIP research. Despite the lack of a definitive cure, better

testing and treatment methods are helping some cats live well despite having FIP. There are also more opportunities for veterinary professionals to learn about FIP in their continuing education programs.

Ms. Gingrich and Mr. Shurskis were inspired by personal experiences to establish the Bria Fund. In early 2005, they lost their nine month old Blue Lynx Point Birman kitten Bria to suspected FIP. They had never heard of FIP before Bria developed it. They soon learned that little was known about this disease, that there were no clinical trials involving FIP, and no treatment for it, except for steroid prescriptions to somewhat ease the pain and suffering of cats with the disease.

After Bria's passing, they were determined to do everything they could to spare future cat owners from the experiences they and Bria had to endure. The Gingrich family is well known for its love of animals. Ms. Gingrich's sisters, Candace Gingrich and Roberta Gingrich Brown, worked hard with their sister to establish the Bria Fund. Her brother, former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, encouraged the organization he created, the Center for Health Transformation, to provide a generous contribution to the Fund.

The Gingrich's could not have picked a more worthy ally in the Winn Feline Foundation. The WFF was established by the Cat Fancier's Association, Inc., to support health-related research benefiting cats. To date, Winn has funded over \$5 million in health research for cats at more than 30 partner institutions worldwide. Since the WFF was established in 1968 feline medicine has become a major veterinary specialty. Cats are no longer viewed as small dogs. Today, cat owners expect and receive state-of-the-art medical care.

As the Bria Fund celebrates its 10th anniversary, I encourage my colleagues to pause for a moment in honor of National Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) Awareness, Research, and Education Day and think of all the pets and pet owners in this Nation, especially cats such as Bria.

#### THE UNAFFORDABILITY OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

#### HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the millions of Americans—including many in my home state of Louisiana—who are being forced to bear the cost of president Obama's flawed healthcare law.

The negative impacts of the so-called affordable care act have been felt by people of all walks of life. In many cases, the law has disproportionately hurt the very people it claimed it would help—hardworking, middle-class families.

Five years of Obamacare implementation has produced higher premiums, higher deductibles, higher co-payments and reduced access to care for those who need it most.

In fact, a study published just last week revealed that increases in 2016 premiums for health insurance coverage will once again be in the double digits, exceeding last year's double digit hikes. At least one state could see as much as a 130 percent rate hike next year.

Across the board, the projected hikes for the lowest-priced options in each tier of coverage—bronze, silver, gold and platinum—will surpass the increases we saw last year.

The median cost of the bronze plans, one of the most popular offerings because of its relatively low premiums, will rise by 13% in 2016. As for the high-end insurance coverage options, gold's median premium will jump 15% and platinum's rate will rise by 12%.

Mr. Speaker, these cost increases are simply unworkable for the majority of Americans. I'd like to share the situation of a constituent of mine who recently reached out to me, begging Congress to take action to fix this broken law.

Unable to afford the \$1200/month it would cost him to get the family plan through his employer, he turned to the exchange in search of a high deductible plan to provide health insurance for his wife and girls.

He recently received a renewal notice in the mail informing him that his monthly bill will increase 21% in 2016. 21 percent. Despite the fact that he provides 95% of his household's income as his wife finishes school, he is above the income threshold to receive any subsidy to offset the cost.

The first \$11,000 of his pre-tax income will go toward government mandated health insurance in 2016—coverage that will still require him to pay a copay and coinsurance on a very high deductible to use it. His alternative is to pay the 2.5% fine and to have no coverage in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I am now going to ask you what this man asked me: what's his incentive to work harder? What's his reward for working since age 15, for spending 6 years pursuing an advanced degree in college?

All he can show for it is an irresponsible and unaccountable government that takes a larger portion of his income every year to pay for government programs that punish those who work hard and reward those who don't.

It's time for the president to acknowledge that his signature legislation is fundamentally flawed. It's time we turn the page on Obamacare and provide better solutions. Americans deserve a healthcare system that drives efficiency through competition and places healthcare decisions in the hands of consumers and taxpayers—not the federal government.

#### TRIBUTE TO MS. JEANETTE LAMAR

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have never known a more gracious, generous, efficient, engaged, well-liked, admired, respected and beloved person than Ms. Jeanette Lamar.

She and her family became known to me when I was a young block club organizer and they lived in the community of North Lawndale in Chicago, a neighborhood undergoing change. Their home was always immaculate, a place for block club meetings, for neighborhood discussions and a place where you just simply enjoyed being.